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9 March 1963

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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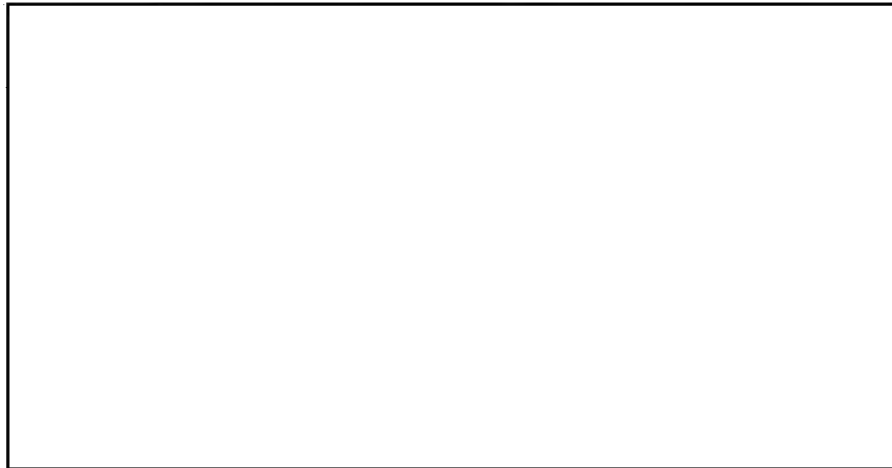
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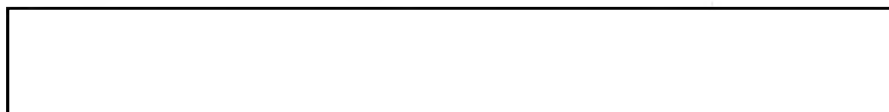


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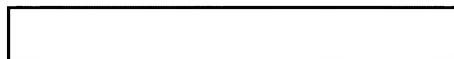
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Common Market--Britain: (Efforts in the Benelux countries to work out some kind of interim economic tie between Britain and the Common Market appear to have reached a dead end.)

(At a meeting in Brussels on 6 March, Britain's chief Common Market negotiator and the Belgian and Dutch foreign ministers agreed there was little prospect of establishing a limited customs union, free trade area, or other such economic arrangement between the UK and the Six.)

(The three did agree to attempt to raise at a meeting later this month of the seven-nation Western European Union (WEU) the question of what might be done to strengthen political, military, and cultural ties among the WEU members. There is some doubt the French would agree to such a discussion, however.)

(Failure of the Belgian initiative--and of similar West German proposals--results from the growing realization that to negotiate some form of association between the UK and the EEC would be almost as difficult as to negotiate full membership. The Macmillan government has stressed the political impossibility of resuming talks with the EEC on this basis without assurances against another French veto.)

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**\*Syria:** The revolutionary command announced on 9 March the formation of a coalition cabinet headed by Baathist Salah al-Din al-Bitar, who was designated premier and foreign minister. He was co-founder of the Baath party with Michel Aflaq in 1954. Bitar was foreign minister in left-wing cabinets from June 1956 up to the union with Egypt in February 1958. Also included in the cabinet is Abd al-Wahab Hawmad, a leader of the left-wing faction of the Populist party, who was appointed finance minister.

The revolutionary command has received pledges of support from all significant army units and appears to be in firm control.

Opposition by a part of the air force was evidently overcome by yesterday afternoon. Tight security controls and a rigorously-enforced curfew have been instituted.

The forces behind the coup apparently include Baathists, pro-Nasirists, and middle-of-the-road Arab nationalists. Their coalition may prove to be fragile, however, with one group or another trying to move quickly into a dominant role. The Baath party's international chief, Michel Aflaq, who traveled to Damascus from Beirut yesterday evening, may press for this kind of action.

The revolutionary command has espoused positive neutrality and declared itself in favor of Arab unity in some form; it has attempted, however, to keep a careful balance between its gestures toward Iraq and toward the UAR. Each of those governments has declared that it would send military support, if necessary, to protect the Syrian revolution.

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NOTES

\*USSR-Cambodia: The Cambodian defense minister has confirmed that the USSR is providing Cambodia with six MIG-17s (Frescos), with delivery expected in about one month. He said Cambodian personnel probably would be sent to the USSR for pilot and maintenance training. Delivery of the jets will break the West's monopoly in military assistance to Cambodia. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Indonesia-Malaysia: (Indonesian Communist Party agents in Malaya and Singapore have been instructed to step up their subversive campaign against Malayan Prime Minister Rahman and the Malaysia Federation project. Party chairman Aidit ordered them to stimulate labor agitation, infiltrate government offices, and take other steps to undermine Rahman. These Communist efforts parallel the Indonesian Government's campaign against Rahman and Malaysia.) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Afghanistan: King Zahir Shah reportedly is appointing a caretaker government of civil servants after accepting Prime Minister Daud's resignation. Formation of a more permanent government may take several months. (The King appears to be in full control so far and Kabul is calm, with no unusual security measures evident.) [REDACTED]

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Pakistan: The Ayub regime is seriously concerned over the growth of labor unrest in Karachi following the killing of four strikers by police on 1 March. The government is seeking settlements of grievances which have idled up to 60,000 workers and several hundred plants. (Officials fear that the unrest may spread to East Pakistan where some antiregime demonstrations are being planned in connection with the National Assembly session which opened on 8 March.)

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